

## Word of mouth

# Dreamteam

**NEW DELHI** In the capital for the Commonwealth Games? Meet the six must-know locals best placed to show you a good time. Photograph by **Amit Sharma**

**1 AMBIKA MUTTOO** **Writer** Need to get a blow-dry at 9pm? An Italian restaurant in Khan Market to grab a quick bite? Tickets to a sold-out Sufi music concert? Ambika knows Delhi's art, music and shopping scene like no other. A former editor at *Time Out* Delhi, she describes the city as one with "multiple personalities."

**2 MYRIAM KRYGER** **Director, Alliance Française Delhi** This très chic Paris native says, "If you want to understand the world and yourself, you have to understand this collection of humanity. Just being in Delhi, you're part of one of the oldest civilisations in history." Her favourite spot is, naturally, historical: Humayun's Tomb.

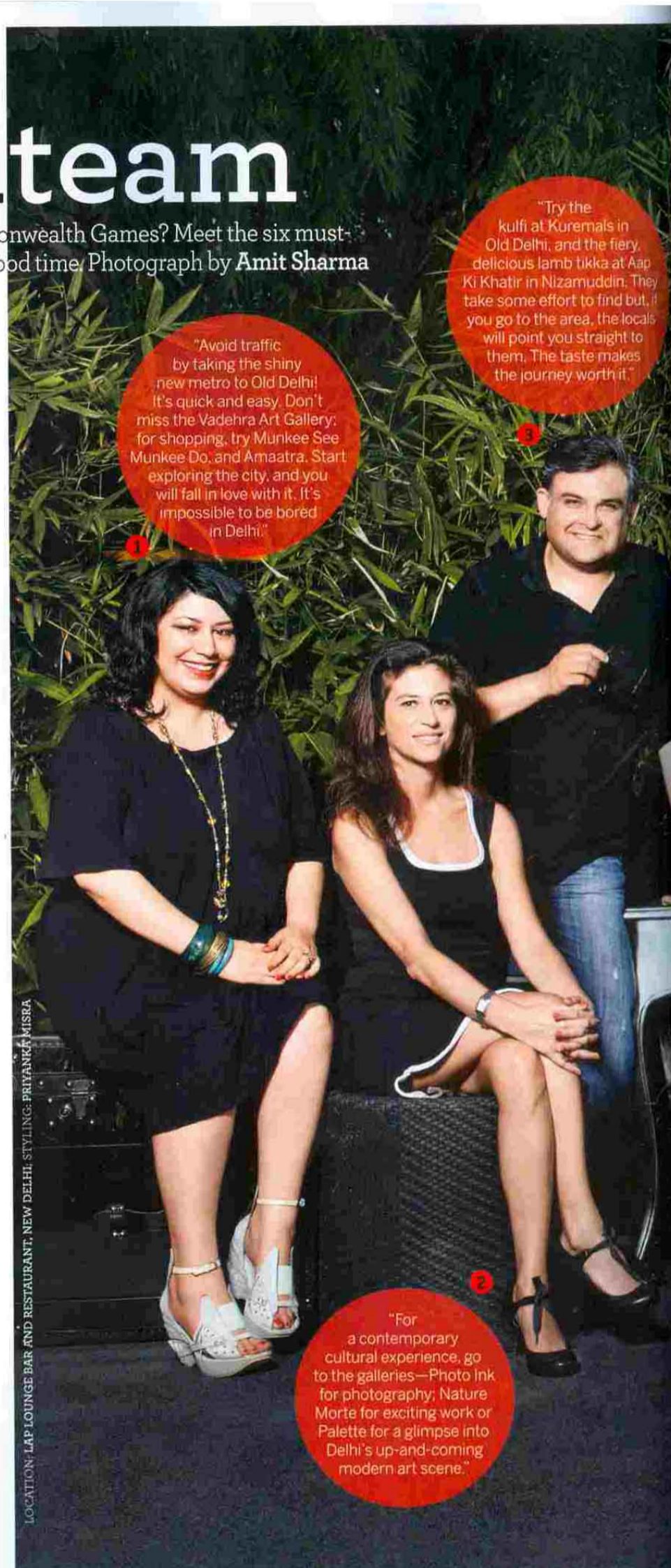
**3 MARUT SIKKA** **Restaurateur** No one knows Delhi's tastebuds like Sikka, whose trio of nightspots are the places to be seen at. Visit Magique for nouvelle fusion cuisine. His lounge, Kainoosh, does contemporary Indian fare, while at his bar, Keya, innovations like the betel leaf-vodka cocktail give a Delhi twist to the classics.

**4 ADHIRAJ SINGH** **Entrepreneur/polo player** Singh, a former Asian Games medallist in equestrian sports, is at the confluence of all things Delhi: old money, big business, posh power. He has also collected more frequent-flyer miles on the party circuit than anyone else. "Delhi is still searching for an identity," he says. "That's why everything that's beautiful about it is related to the past."

**5 DILIP CHERIAN** **Image guru** There isn't much that goes on in Delhi that Cherman doesn't know about. The lobbyist and image guru feels the city is "the epicentre of what will be one of the world's five greatest countries. You get that sense as you're sitting at the heart-beat... Pretend to be powerful. Ignore the masses!"

**6 SHRUTI KHANNA** **Golfer** The professional golfer feels most at home in the city's colonial-era clubs: The Delhi Golf Club and Delhi Gymkhana, where athletes wind down after working out. "Eavesdropping on a conversation here can provide fascinating insight into Indian politics, business and the arts." **T**

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"Avoid traffic by taking the shiny new metro to Old Delhi! It's quick and easy. Don't miss the Vadehra Art Gallery; for shopping, try Munkee See Munkee Do, and Amaatra. Start exploring the city, and you will fall in love with it. It's impossible to be bored in Delhi."

"Try the kulfi at Kuremals in Old Delhi, and the fiery, delicious lamb tikka at Aap Ki Khair in Nizamuddin. They take some effort to find but, if you go to the area, the locals will point you straight to them. The taste makes the journey worth it."

"For a contemporary cultural experience, go to the galleries—Photo Ink for photography; Nature Morte for exciting work or Palette for a glimpse into Delhi's up-and-coming modern art scene."

